

Selecting and Specifying Energy-Efficient EXIT signs



Why Choose Energy-Efficient Exit Signs?

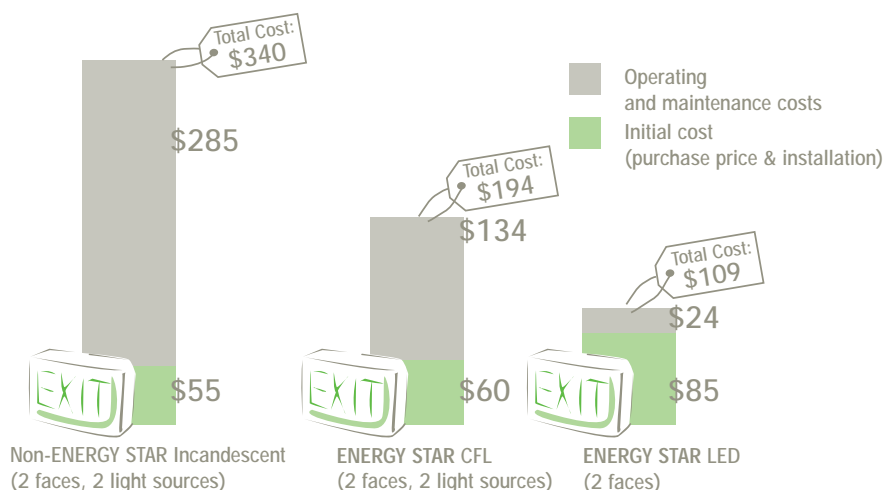
Exit signs cost more to operate than you may think. Traditional incandescent exit signs use significant amounts of energy and require frequent lamp replacement. To help companies save energy and money, EPA has partnered with exit sign manufacturers to produce and promote exit signs that meet energy-efficiency guidelines and qualify for the ENERGY STAR® label. By using exit signs with the ENERGY STAR label, you'll receive significant financial and environmental benefits:

- save money through lower energy bills
- reduce maintenance needs and costs
- protect the environment, since fewer harmful pollutants are released into the air through the burning of fossil fuels

ENERGY STAR® is a registered mark

Life-Cycle Costs

The value of ENERGY STAR labeled exit signs is clear when you consider the total cost associated with operating an exit sign. Over a ten year period, look at the savings you can get from ENERGY STAR labeled exit signs:



If you would like a diskette in Excel or Lotus format to help you calculate savings and life-cycle costs in your area, call the ENERGY STAR hotline toll-free at 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).

Beware of Hidden Costs in Your Current Exit Signs

Don't be fooled by lower first-cost price tags for incandescent exit signs. Traditional exit signs have hidden costs that add up over time, so remember to consider the *total costs* required to operate an exit sign for an extended period. For example, a two-face, double-lamp incandescent exit sign can cost \$260 more to operate over ten years than a comparable ENERGY STAR labeled exit sign. So, purchasing 100 ENERGY STAR labeled exit signs could save you \$23,000 over ten years, despite their higher price tag.

How to Specify an ENERGY STAR Labeled Exit Sign

In writing specifications for the purchase of exit signs, consider characteristics that are important to your facility. Important considerations include:

- color of sign (green or red?)
- applicable state and local building codes
- number of faces (single or double?)
- is battery backup required?
- light source (CFL, LED or other?)
- power factor
- location and placement
- appropriate casing materials for application
- life-cycle costs

To ensure that you save energy and reduce air pollution, specify that the signs be ENERGY STAR compliant. In your request for proposals, include the following specifications:

Performance Measures:

Input power demand

-

Letter size and spacing

-

Luminance contrast

-

Average luminance

-

Minimum luminance

-

Maximum to minimum luminance

-

Manufacturer warranty for defective parts

-

ENERGY STAR Performance Specification:

Less than 5 watts per face

Adheres to NFPA's Life Safety Code 101*

Greater than 0.8

Greater than 15 candelas/meter² (cd/m²) measured at normal (0°) and 45° viewing angles

Greater than 8.6 cd/m² measured at normal (0°) and 45° viewing angles

Less than 20:1 measured at normal (0°) and 45° viewing angles

5 years

*The sign shall have the word "EXIT" or other appropriate wording in legible letters not less than 6 in. (15.2 cm) high with the principal strokes of letters not less than 3/4 in. (1.9 cm) wide. The word "EXIT" shall have letters of a width not less than 2 in. (5 cm.) except the letter "I," and the minimum spacing between letters shall be not less than 3/8 in. (1 cm.). Signs larger than the minimum established in this paragraph shall have letter widths, strokes, and spacing in proportion to their height.

Replacement vs. Retrofit

When deciding whether to replace an old exit sign or upgrade it with a retrofit kit, remember to compare costs beyond the initial purchase price. Installation costs, age of existing sign, energy use, and maintenance costs are important factors to consider. For safety, quality assurance, and lower energy costs, consider purchasing a new exit sign that has earned the ENERGY STAR label. Purchasing an ENERGY STAR compliant exit sign guarantees that your sign:

- operates on less than five watts per face
- exceeds the NFPA Life Safety Code 101 guidelines
- has a minimum five-year manufacturer warranty for defective parts.



For more information, a list of ENERGY STAR Exit Sign Manufacturing Partners, or a list of compliant exit signs, please call the ENERGY STAR hotline toll-free at 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937) or visit our website at www.epa.gov/exitsigns.html.